

The Lexington Intelligencer.

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LEXINGTON, LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1903.

No 48

The Contest.

A large and enthusiastic audience greeted the contestants from several of the high schools of the Western Central Teachers' Association, at the opera house October 27th. Friends of the several candidates and voters were present and school colors and school yells were in evidence, though there was no objectionable boisterousness.

The program opened with an eloquent invocation by President A. F. Smith, of Central College, followed by music by the orchestra. Superintendent C. A. Phillips then announced that for some unknown reason the representatives of the Sedalia High school were not present and that accordingly members 4 and 11 on the program would not be given.

Miss Mary Carpenter, of Lee's Summit gave "The Heart of Old Hickory." Her presentation of the story was warmly received and it was plain that she would have to be reckoned with by the judges in the final distribution of the honors.

Miss Abba Bishop's rendition of the difficult dialect, story of "Mrs. O'Toole and the Conductor", was spirited and showed an admirable realization of the dramatic elements of the story.

Miss Florence Barton, of Warrensburg, had chosen a delightful selection from the ever pleasing Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch—The theater party. She had the story thoroughly in hand and had the audience with her from the start.

Raymond Staley, of Warrensburg, had taken the same selection as Miss Carpenter, "The Heart of Old Hickory," which he gave with spirit and effect.

H. A. Slaughter, of Hickman's Mills, pleased his hearers with the often heard "Boy orator of Zephera City."

Lewis Gordon, of Lexington, concluded the program with "Hand-Car 412", a dramatic narrative of which he showed easy mastery.

The judges were, R. L. Walker, Assistant State Superintendent of public schools, R. L. Shepherd, teacher in Warrensburg State Normal School, and Miss Mary Heston teacher of expression in Woodson Institute.

The decision was announced by Prof. Shepherd in a pleasing speech. Of the girls, Miss Barton, of Warrensburg, won the first medal and Miss Bishop, of Lexington, second medal. Of the boys, Lewis Gordon, of Lexington won first medal and H. A. Slaughter, of Hickman's Mills, second.

After the contest the parlors of the Elks Home were thrown open to the public and the winners of the medals received their friends. Light refreshments were served. Stark's orchestra furnished music for the dancers.

The Electric Line.

The Kansas City Journal of Sunday has an article about a proposed electric line between Lexington and Kansas City. In an interview Monday with J. C. McGrew, he stated to a representative of the INTELLIGENCER that the matter had not taken definite enough shape for him to make any announcement to the people. He has gotten terms of entrance into Kansas City and expects engineers to outline a route this week. The capitalists whom he has interested in the enterprise will make decision of what they will do, and if this decision is favorable, a definite proposition will be laid before the people along the route. This is a matter in which the people of Lexington and vicinity are warmly interested and they will watch developments with deep concern.

Death of Dr. Robert Wilmot.

Died, at his home in Odessa Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 1st, Dr. Robert Wilmot, aged 81 years.

Dr. Wilmot was born in Kentucky but moved here while he was a young man and has made his home in Lafayette county ever since. During the many useful years of his life he has made many friends all of whom held him in the highest respect and honor. He has been in declining health for some time and while the end, induced by general debility, was a source of the deepest sorrow and regret to all of his friends and relatives, it did not come

as a surprise. He leaves a wife and twelve children to mourn his loss. The body will be brought here today for burial to the residence of his son-in-law, Clarence Kenney. Those of his children who are now living are: Misses Agnes and Francis Wilmot, and Mrs. Wm. Buford of Odessa; Mrs. Clarence Kenney and Robert Wilmot of Lexington; Mrs. Jas. Moore and Messrs. Wm., John and Joe Wilmot, of near Lexington; Mrs. Frank Vansdale, of Kansas City; and Mrs. A. W. Waddell of St. Louis.

Death of Mrs. Parks.

Died, of typhoid pneumonia, at her home on Third street, Thursday morning, Mrs. John W. Parks, aged 36 years and 7 months.

Mrs. Parks was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Kneller, of this city, and was born May 12, 1867. She was married to William Parks about seventeen years ago and has always lived here. She leaves seven children, four boys and three girls. Her brothers and sisters living are: Joseph Kneller, St. Louis, and Albert Kneller, Lexington; Mrs. J. E. Hill, Waverly; Mrs. Geo. Parks, Lexington, and Mrs. Frank McCurdy, Kansas City.

Mrs. Parks was a member of the Methodist church and was a devoted Christian woman. Her death is particularly sad on account of her large family of children, some of whom are of an age to need a mother's care.

The funeral services were held at the home on Third street Friday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, the services being conducted by Rev. H. A. Hohenwald. Internment followed in Machpiah Cemetery.

C. F. C. Recital.

The recital of the Junior and Senior classes of the School of Expression of Central College Saturday night was up to the high average of the public entertainments of this excellent institution. The department of the college's literary work is under the guidance of Miss Perle Shale, well known to all the friends of the school, who are confident that the work has never been in more competent hands. The programme was a diversified one and was in detail as follows:

Christmas Eve in a Mining Camp
A. B. Paine
Miss Grace Lewis.
a. How Girls Fish - Anonymous
b. Sue Water's Housekeeping - Theo Whiting
Told by her little brother to the young man who came to call.
Miss Stella Nelson
Little Bill - Anonymous
Miss Nellie Mendham.
Skimpsey - Alfred Stoddart
Miss Georgia Stuart.
Prince Eric's Christmaid, E. D. Banks
Miss Lottie Hall.
Leap Year Mishaps - Anonymous
Miss Lillian Clark.
A Second Trial - Sarah W. Kellogg
Miss Christine Lewis
Tom, the Drummer-Boy, Anonymous
Miss Lillian Stevens.
A Mother's Tinder Falls - S. Jennie Smith
Miss Susan Yates.

Not For Us.

The following letter from General Harding puts an end to Lexington's hopes as to the shops:

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 25, 1903.

Mr. R. G. Loomis, Lexington Mo.
Dear Sir:—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of November 27, wherein you state that the citizens of your city are prepared to offer the Missouri Pacific eighty acres and a cash donation of \$75,000 provided the contemplated shops might be located at Lexington.

I am sorry indeed to advise you that it would not be policy for this company to locate its shops at Lexington, the geographical condition being absolutely against such location.

I wish to express to you and the citizens of Lexington the appreciation as felt by this company for the interest taken and very sorry that we cannot avail ourselves of the offer.

Yours truly,

Russell Harding,
V. P. & G. M.

Miss Garnet Sachutt, who has been here for the past few months, left Wednesday evening for Kansas City.

West Missouri's Candidate for Governor.

John E. Gorse in St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Kansas City, November 26.

James A. Reed, mayor of Kansas City, who wants to be governor of Missouri, is a fine, big figure of a man, 6 feet high, weight close to 180 pounds, well poised head, straight broad shoulders, sinewy hands, feet long and instep high arched. His forehead is high and flattened at the temples. His eyes are a grey-blue, the eye of indomitable courage. They are wide set and there are many laughter wrinkles about them.

You will hear much of "Jim" Reed from the politicians of Missouri, but there are few who address him as "Jim." The few who do would call an archbishop Pat. To even the over-familiar, hustling mixers Reed is the "Mayor" or "Mr. Reed." He has the dignity which is hard to define, the dignity of a powerful personality, not of vanity.

Reed wants to be governor of Missouri. He is after the office. It is the first office that he has deliberately sought. He has held three offices: Jackson county's counselor, prosecuting attorney and mayor of Kansas City. These offices sought him—at least the nomination came to him as a free offering. He was asked on his party fealty to make three races, to lend his availability to the cause of the democratic party. Now he presents himself with the claim that he is the most available, the best candidate the party can name for governor of Missouri.

I asked him: "What is your great ambition?" "To be a good lawyer and practice my profession. I have no ambition for the bench; I have no especial fitness for it. I am an advocate."

Should he fail of election to the office he covets he would go back to the practice of law and I do not think the strongest plea addressed to his party fealty would tempt him to become a candidate for any other office. Should he reach the gubernatorial chair I see him ambitious for other political honor, senator and even president.

Reed is an example of the poor boy from the farm who has raised himself to position and power. He was born in Ohio, on a farm. His father died on a mortgaged farm near Cedar Rapids, Io., when James was 8 years old.

The mother took up the fight to save the farm and her six children, the eldest 14 worked with her. They lived hard, they worked hard, they won. James went to school three months each winter; the remainder of the year he worked from dawn till dark and studied from supper to bed time. As he grew older the conditions on the farm improved and he was able to take a special course in Coe College, at Cedar Rapids. At 20 he took up the study of law. He had found himself.

Cedar Rapids was too small, too restricted for the young lawyer. He wanted a growing city, one that promised to be big, for the scene of his upward climb. He chose Kansas City. That was 16 years ago. He had been a democrat, a "boy orator"; he had been on the stump for his party in Iowa, and had been chairman of his county's committee when the democrats carried not only the county, but the congressional district. He became affiliated with the democrats of Kansas City, he made speeches in Jackson county. He was the sort of worker party managers never find too numerous. He had the gift of speech, if not of oratory, and he knew how to talk to men, especially to men from the farms.

Seven years ago he was offered the position of counselor to the Jackson county court. It is not a very lucrative position, but it did not interfere with his private practice, which was growing. As city counselor he initiated two movements which gained him at least local fame. The poles and wires of the Western Union Telegraph Co. had been taxed as cordwood and scrap wire, on the theory that at forced sale these assets would bring cordwood and scrap wire prices. He advised the court that it was justified in assessing the poles and wires and franchise of the company

as a going business and at their true value in that business. This is not a legal statement, but that is the basic idea of his opinion. The state supreme court sustained him. It also sustained his contentions in the matter of the assessments of street railways which had suburban lines and thus increased the tax receipts of the county and city by large sums.

The criminal court at this period was conducted in so lax a manner that it had become a scandal. Reform was demanded by the people through the public press. A prosecuting attorney was to be elected. The party managers, however much they deprecated the reform cry, realized that good politics demanded the choice of a man of parts and no cost for the place. They offered the nomination to Reed. He was shy; he liked to mix in politics for the excitement of the game, but had no ambition for office. He wanted to practice law. He was urged to take the nomination as a favor to his friends and finally insistence won; he consented to make the race and won.

Reed was prosecuting attorney for fifteen months; in that term he revolutionized the criminal court. From January 1, 1899, until Reed left the office, there were but two acquittals. Men were not put on trial unless the prosecuting attorney was convinced of their guilt, and then he used all of his strength to convict. There were 187 cases tried, 134 for felony and 53 for misdemeanors. Each of the 134 persons charged with felony was sentenced to an average term of seven years and three months, a total of 1034 years imprisonment. Murderers were given an average of 34 years and 8 months. Highway robbers were sentenced to terms as long as 30 years. Five judges sat in these trials and 1227 jurors were drawn for them. Do you wonder that Reed has fame in Kansas City as great as Folk has won in St. Louis? He had gone into a court notorious for its laxity, a court without system; he found that important records were missing, the weapons with which murders had been committed were lost, that no list of necessary witnesses had been kept. He organized, systemized and revolutionized the office. The effect of his administration was a panic among criminals and even those papers that were politically opposed to him acknowledged his great public service.

Then came his friends in the councils of the democratic party and urged that he run for mayor. His term as prosecuting attorney had nine months to run beyond the date the next mayor should take office; but they urged that he was no longer needed in the office, that the fame he won as prosecutor was the great political card the party needed. The Jones administration had been ineffective; it had been dominated by the Metropolitan Street Railway. The people cried for reform and the democratic hope of triumph depended on the party's ability to give the people what they cried for. Promises were made to Reed. He was to give his aid, his name to the ticket and he was to have veto on the nominations of other city officers. He consented and, when committed, learned—it was almost a matter of course—that the promises were not to be kept.

He was handicapped for the two years of his term as mayor by a majority against him in the upper house of the council, which refused to approve his appointees for five important offices which became vacant. He had to go to the supreme court to out the men who held on to their places and only in the last days of his term were his appointees approved.

He was nominated for a second year without opposition save from the Metropolitan Street Railway Co., which was operating under a franchise framed by its managers and which gave the company everything, the people nothing. Reed had threatened to attack this franchise in the courts; he vetoed an owl car bill under which the company was to charge 10 cents without transfers; he compelled the company to construct the Allen and Summit avenue viaducts and induced the state board of equalization to increase the assess-

ment of the company from \$2,600,000 to \$5,500,000. He prosecuted agents of the company who were accused of bribing juries in damage cases. Officers summoned before the grand jury in this investigation and required to bring their book, took refuge behind the constitutional privilege and would not disclose evidence that would incriminate them.

Within two days after Mayor Reed's second election the Metropolitan sued for peace. At his dictation the offending officers were dismissed, the railways agreed to pave 18 inches on each side of all tracks, saving the people \$1,755,000; agreed to pay 8 per cent of its gross receipts to Kansas City in lieu of city taxes (this amounted to \$141,724 the first year, and experts figure an increase of 10 per cent per annum, making the city's portion in the last year of the company's franchise \$1,154,386); agreed to build 35 miles of extensions, replace cables with electricity, place watchmen at dangerous crossings, grant universal transfers, build a roadway and tracks to Swepe Park, which is 10 miles southeast of the city, and maintain electric lights at all car line crossings.

Reed had won again, and magnificently. He succeeded in cutting the cost of electric street lights from \$110 to \$65, a saving of \$33,795 annually. He succeeded in getting assessments raised on the gas company from \$641,000 to \$1,126,000; on the electric light company from \$70,000 to \$527,000; on the stock yards company, \$49,500 to \$1,000,000—all to the great gain of the city and state.

Incidentally, Mayor Reed fought the telephone monopoly and aided in bringing in a competitive company which has cut the rate to \$60 per annum, where the Bell company had been charging \$95.

If Mayor Reed's record was to be considered only by these acts it would be a great one. He has added millions to the city's revenue and has spent the city's income with economy and care for the well-being of the people. Although he hates the routine of the office and longs to be back at the practice of law, where he won his spurs and fame, his devotion to the detail of his duty is an example to officials.

Reed is not an enemy of corporations. He believes they are necessary and uniformly good. His position is that he holds a brief for the people of Kansas City and that it is his duty to see that the people receive from public service corporations all that the people are entitled to. It was on this ground that he conducted his fight, which increased the assessment of the Metropolitan from \$1,000,000 to over \$7,000,000, fought the water company and caused a cut in rates for electric street lights from \$110 to \$65.

Reed wears the gold button of the Elks on a lapel of his coat. A Knight of Pythias emblem is pendant to his watch chain. He is also a Woodman. He is married and has no children. His social circle is a small group of warm, congenial friends. His recreation is hunting, and although he owns two dogs trained to the field—and is very proud of them—he seldom hunts when he gets back to the practice of law he hopes to have more leisure for recreation, but the hunting dogs are in a fair way to die before that day comes.

Mesdames S. N. and M. D. Wilson Entertain.

Saturday afternoon from 2 until 6 o'clock, at the home of Mrs. S. N. Wilson on Washington Ave; Mesdames S. N. and M. D. Wilson gave a delightful reception in honor of Miss Katherine Graham of St. Joseph, assisted by Miss Leah Chew. The decorations were white and green. Palms and ferns with white chrysanthemums being tastefully arranged throughout the house. Delicious refreshments consisting of nut cream with mint dressing, several kinds of cake, coffee, white and green peppermints were served. Music was furnished during the entire afternoon. About a hundred and twenty invitation were issued.

To Pave Thirteenth Street.

At Tuesday night's meeting of the City Council a resolution was passed to pave Thirteenth St. from Main St. to South St.

Lexington College Reception.

The evening of the last day of November marked one of the social events of the season for Lexington, in the opening reception of Lexington College.

The day was most auspicious for this occasion, which has no doubt been anticipated with pleasure by the young ladies of the institution. That the anticipations were fully realized by these fair seekers after knowledge and their gallant friends, is beyond question.

As we passed to the receiving line, we met first the genial and honored president, Mr. White with Mrs. White, the esteemed vice-president, Mr. Cook and Mrs. Cook followed by Misses Hazel Gregg, Bertha Cunningham, Ella Cokrell and Claire Webster, members of the senior class.

Those of us who wandered through the rooms and halls, beautiful in their decorations of white and red, amid the fragrance and green of flowers and foliage, may indeed chronicle this as one of the brilliant functions of the year.

From the music room came inspiring notes, as the orchestra added to the charm of the evening.

Later the young people repaired to the refreshment room where a dainty collation of ices, cake, bonbons and coffee was served. Reluctantly the guests departed shortly after the chiming of eleven from the city towers.

The Bar's Petition.

To Hon. J. L. Smith, Judge of the Kansas City Court of Appeals, Kansas City, Mo.

Sir:—We, the undersigned members of the Lafayette County Bar, regardless of party affiliation, believing that the most sacred safeguard of the people is an able, just and upright judiciary:

And realizing in you the characteristics of integrity, scholarly attainments, legal ability, strict impartiality, untiring energy and industry, coupled with extensive business experience, do most earnestly request that you permit your name to be submitted for renomination to the position of judge of the Kansas City court of appeals, which position you so admirably, ably and impartially fill at this time.

Alexander Graves, William Aull, Geo. M. Catron, Robt. A. Hicklin, Clarence Vivion, H. C. Wallace, William Young, James P. Chinn, Charles Lyons, John Welborn, S. N. Wilson, Wm H. Chiles, John E. Burden, U. G. Phetzing, John S. Blackwell, Pearl R. Smith, H. F. Blackwell, John E. Ryland, John M. Price, Richard Field, W. B. Wilson, T. J. Duling, J. G. Russell, W. V. Smithson, M. C. Shewalter, D. A. Barr, C. A. Keith, M. C. James, Thos. A. Walker, A. E. Asbury, A. E. Asbury, Jr., I. W. Whitsett, N. M. Houx, Walker Bascom.

Rex Speas.

Married, Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock, at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Speas, three miles south of town, Mr. Charles Rex and Miss Ora Speas, Rev. R. B. Briney performing the ceremony.

It was a quiet home wedding, only the immediate friends and relatives of the contracting parties being present. The bride and groom left immediately after the ceremony for Pittsburg, Kansas, where they will visit before returning to their home in Lexington.

Both bride and groom are well known in and about Lexington, where they have many warm friends all of whom join in extending to them the very best wishes and congratulations.

Kansas City Won.

At the meeting of the National Hereford Breeders' Association this week in Chicago the headquarters controversy was settled in favor of Kansas City. The old board of directors was re-elected. Walter B. Waddell, of this city, was continued in office as treasurer of the association.

There will be services by Rev. J. K. Du'n in Christ Episcopal church Sunday at the usual hours. Holy communion after morning sermon.